



## Public Health Link

Volume 2 | Issue 5

Article 1

6-1-2006

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### Recommended Citation

(2006) "Download full PDF issue of Thomas Jefferson University MPH Public Health Link, Vol. 2, Iss.5, June 2006," *Public Health Link*: Vol. 2: Iss. 5, Article 1.

Available at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/phlink/vol2/iss5/1>

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### Student Objectives

Graduates of the MSPH program are expected to be able to:

- Articulate the principles that are basic to public health, including methods for assessing the determinants of the population's health;
- Communicate effectively with colleagues, in and out of public health, and the lay public, about the scientific principles that form the basis of the discipline;
- Analyze published literature in public health, including the application of relevant aspects of epidemiology and biostatistics;
- Explain the variability in access to care and public health resources, including the workforce in the United States and abroad;
- Articulate the role of psychosocial factors as they relate to personal behavior, public health communications, education and impact;
- Describe the major environmental health hazards, their effects on individuals, their assessment and development of policies for protection of the public's health;
- Serve as a resource for information on health services, including aspects of healthcare financing and outcomes measurement;
- Delineate the legal and ethical principles that inform public health practice.

# Public Health Link

JEFFERSON COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
MASTERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH E-NEWS

## Student Spotlight

### Recent Graduate

Charbel Haber was born on April 29, 1970 in Beirut, Lebanon. He had the opportunity to live in a number of countries including Cyprus, France, and UAE. Haber immigrated to the USA to join his relatives in Tennessee. He attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where he majored in Chemical Engineering. He graduated *summa cum laude* in 1995.

Charbel continued his education at Johns Hopkins University where he investigated the physical properties of individual DNA molecules. He published several articles in peer-reviewed journals including *Nature*, *PNAS*, and *Biophysical Journal*. At Hopkins, Haber received a Master's of Science degree in Environmental Engineering and a PhD from the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department. His dissertation was entitled, *Micromanipulation of DNA: Architecture, Dynamics, and Elasticity*.

After graduate school, Charbel started his career at Merck in the Vaccine Bioprocess R&D department as a Senior Research Biochemical Engineer. He led the development of the cell disruption and clarification unit operations for an HIV vaccine purification process.

In 2002, Charbel transitioned into the Worldwide Regulatory Affairs Department at Merck. In his new position, he devised a

global filing strategy for the rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq®. He liaised directly with Asian-Pacific regulatory agencies to discuss clinical and manufacturing vaccine development. During his tenure at Merck, Haber obtained a Master's of Science in Public Health from Thomas Jefferson University. His Thesis addressed *Health Policies and Interventions Necessary to Prepare for and Respond to a Pandemic Influenza: A Focus on Vaccine Development and Distribution*.

In 2006, Charbel accepted the position of Associate Director in the Regulatory Affairs department at MedImmune, Inc. In his new role, he provides regulatory support and guidance for clinical and safety plans associated with vaccine development. He currently leads the regulatory activities associated with egg-based pandemic influenza vaccines.

Charbel went through some soul-searching during a time that he was engaged in a project aimed at raising funds to build a hospital for infectious disease, especially HIV, in the Cameroon. He realized then, that he has a penchant towards public health. "The public health degree at TJU

helped in many ways. Having a degree in Public Health improved my credibility as a Regulatory Affairs professional especially when working with international health agencies. Our common care for the health of the public helped in building and strengthening our relationship," says Charbel.

Charbel completed his public health coursework by Fall 2004 and submitted and defended his thesis in August 2005.

His clerkship title was: *Regulatory Policies and Public Health Interventions Necessary in the Preparedness and Response to a Pandemic Influenza*.

This clerkship included two goals: 1) To assess the levels of public health preparedness against an impending influenza pandemic at the city level and work with Public Health

officials to develop strategies to mitigate the impact of a global pandemic on the city of Philadelphia. 2) To survey and analyze the individual countries' regulatory approaches in the development and licensing of effective vaccines against the H5N1 strain of the Influenza virus.

(Information provided by Charbel Haber)

*"Having a degree in Public Health improved my credibility as a Regulatory Affairs professional especially when working with international health agencies."*

*-Charbel Haber*



Charbel Haber and his newborn son, Jean-Paul.

### Registration

Students can still register for Summer courses by paper. Forms can be picked up in JAH, M-46 or the Registrar's (Curtis G-22).

Registration for Fall '06 courses can still be done online until August 19, 2006. This can also be done by using the form.

**CONGRATS** to recent graduate, Laurence Crossan, MD, MPH whose thesis abstract titled— *At Risk and Overweight Adolescents in the Philadelphia Health Care Centers: Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Comorbidities* has been accepted for an oral presentation at the annual APHA (American Public Health Association) meeting. The annual meeting will be held November 4-8, 2006 in Boston.



# Health Policy Forum

June 14th, 8:30-9:30am  
1015 Walnut Street  
218 Curtis

The Recent Rapid Rise in Utilization of Diagnostic Imaging:  
What Are the Causes and What Are Health Plans Doing About it

David Levin, MD  
Professor, Department of Radiology  
Jefferson Medical College

Sponsored by David B. Nash, MD, MBA-Chairman,  
Department of Health Policy Jefferson Medical College

## Congratulations, Public Health Grads!

Deborah August	Colleen Cohick	Laurence Crossan
Karen Dwyer	Sarita Gangaharrappa	Charbel Haber
Irina Kakhniashvili	Meghan McLaine	Christina Minshinkish
Giuseppe Nunnari	Dana Perella	Joseph Portale
Jennifer Reinert	Christa Seiman	Tao Zhuliang



## Musicians Wanted Jefferson Chamber Orchestra

Are you interested in playing **classical music** on campus?

A new chamber orchestra at Jeff is looking for students who play **cello, viola, oboe, or bassoon**. We rehearse once a month and perform for university receptions and other events on campus.

For further information contact:

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